

## ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES TAKEN AT LIGHT IN NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

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### Abstract

Six additional butterfly species are recorded at light traps in northern Queensland: *Neohesperilla xiphiphora* (Lower), *Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius), *Hypochrysops ignitus chrysonotus* Grose-Smith, *Arhopala centaurus centaurus* (Fabricius), *Candalides absimilis* (Felder) and *Ogyris zosine typhon* Waterhouse & Lyell.

### Introduction

Kitching and Harmsen (1992) recorded 7 species of butterflies collected at light in northern Queensland. During a 4 week field trip to Cape York Peninsula in January 1994, a mercury vapour light trap was set up most nights from dusk until around midnight. Butterflies were observed at the light sheet on 5 nights: 1, 2, 3, 14 & 21 January.

### Records

#### HESPERIIDAE

##### *Neohesperilla xiphiphora* (Lower)

One male at the Coleman River crossing, 18 km west of Musgrave on 1.i.1994, in dry eucalypt woodland. Another male on 3.i.1994 at the Normanby River crossing on Battle Camp road, west of Cooktown.

#### NYMPHALIDAE

##### *Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius)

One male at Shipton's Flat, 30 km south of Cooktown on 21.i.1994, adjacent to rainforest.

#### LYCAENIDAE

##### *Hypochrysops ignitus chrysonotus* Grose-Smith

One male 13 km west of Fairview Homestead on 2.i.1994, in dry eucalypt scrub. Taken on the ground walking towards the light sheet.

##### *Arhopala centaurus centaurus* (Fabricius)

One male 13 km west of Musgrave on 14.i.1994, in dry eucalypt woodland.

##### *Candalides absimilis* (Felder)

One male at Shipton's Flat, 30 km south of Cooktown on 21.i.1994, adjacent to rainforest.

##### *Ogyris zosine typhon* Waterhouse & Lyell

One male collected by G. Daniels on the Kennedy river, 24 km west of Fairview Homestead on 14.iv.1989. Taken on the ground walking towards

the light trap some 4 metres distant.

### Comments

In all cases males were collected. This is in contrast to Kitching and Harmsen (1992), in which 7 of their 8 specimens were female. All specimens were taken on the light sheet except where indicated. Adults of all species except *H. ignitus chrysonotus* were in evidence during the day and it is probable that the butterflies were attracted to the light after being disturbed from nearby resting places.

Brou (1974) recorded 607 butterflies representing 28 species taken at 3 light traps operated over a 12 month period in Louisiana. It is probable that many more species will be taken at light traps in northern Queensland, especially in areas where adult numbers are high.

### Acknowledgment

I would like to thank G. Daniels for permission to publish his record of *O. zosine typhon* and for helpful comments.

### References

- BROU, V.A., Jr. 1974. Butterflies taken in light traps. *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 28: 331.
- KITCHING, R.L. and HARMSSEN, R. 1992. Butterflies taken at light in north Queensland rainforest. *Australian Entomological Magazine* 19: 103-105.